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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/488,471	01/20/2000	Neelakantan Sundaresan	AM9-99-0201	4485

7590 03/01/2002

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TAM V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2172	

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

WAG

145

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/488,471	SUNDARESAN, NEELAKANTAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tam V Nguyen	2172	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2000.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paepke (US 6249785B1) in view of Bowman et al. (US 6185558B1).

Re claims 1, 9, and 17, a system for use with a search engine to rank search results, comprising: an off-line ranking system for receiving rating data compiled from an off-line source based on interactive criteria, (Col. 3, lines 24-33), and for indexing the rating data, (see fig. 1); a repository for storing the rating data indexed by the off-line ranking system, (Col. 7, lines 38-52 and see fig. 13);

Paepke fails to show a result sorter for sorting query results generated by the search engine, based on the rating data from the ranking repository, and for generating ranked matches.

Bowman teaches a result sorter for sorting query results generated by the search engine, based on the rating data from the ranking repository, and for generating ranked matches, (Col. 9, lines 56-64). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Paepke by including a result sorter for sorting query results generated by the search engine, based on the rating data from the ranking repository, and for generating ranked matches, as taught by Bowman, so the user can generate a ranking value for a particular item in a query result, the facility combines the rating scores corresponding to that item and the terms of the query, (Col. 2, lines 40-43).

Re claims 2, 10, and 18, Bowman further discloses the system according to claim 1, further including a search results transformer that converts the ranked matches to a user browsable form, (Col. 4, lines 2-14).

Re claims 3, 11, and 19, Bowman further discloses the system according to claim 2, further including an indexing engine that indexes web documents to generate indexed data, (Col. 4, lines 2-14).

Re claims 4, 12, and 20, Paepke further discloses the system according to claim 3, further including a metadata repository for storing web documents that have been downloaded off-line, (Col. 8, lines 32-43).

Re claims 5, 13, and 21, Bowman further discloses the system according to claim 3, further including a query transformer which, when prompted by a query, applies a

query request to the indexed data and generates the query results, (Col. 4, lines 2-36 and Col. 5, lines 20-39).

Re claims 6, 14, and 22, Bowman further discloses the system according to claim 1, wherein the on-line source includes an on-line feedback with annotations, (Col. 7, lines 28-Col. 8, lines 20).

Re claims 7, 15, and 23, Paepke further discloses the system according to claim 1, wherein the off-line source includes any one or more of a questionnaire, a survey, or a web based rating service, (Col. 8, lines 33-43).

Re claims 8, 16, and 24, Bowman further discloses the system according to claim 1, wherein the interactive criteria assess the quality of a business in terms of any one or more of: customer satisfaction, professionalism, cost, and ease of use of a product or service, (Col. 7, lines 14-26).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Driscoll (US 6088692) shows natural language method and system for searching for and ranking relevant documents from a computer database.

Kirsch et al. (US 6070158) shows real-time document collection search engine with phrase indexing.

Woods (US 5724571) shows method and apparatus for generating query responses in a computer-based document retrieval system.

Holt et al. (US 5761497) shows associative text search and retrieval system that calculates ranking scores and window scores.

Pirolli et al. (US 6272507B1) shows system for ranking search results from a collection of documents using spreading activation techniques.

Jacobi et al. (US 6317722B1) shows use of electronic shopping carts to generate personal recommendations.

Contact Fax Information

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or Faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communication intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 308-5399, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

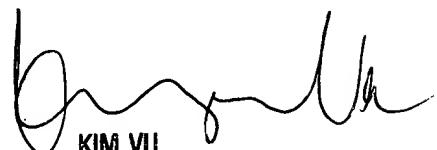
Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA. Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3735. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu, can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-5399.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.



KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

TV: tv

02/22/2002